



CITY OF
FORT LAUDERDALE
POLICE DEPARTMENT
PRESS RELEASE

Detective Travis Mandell
Public Information Office
(954) 828-5464
TMandell@fortlauderdale.gov

August 19, 2011

**OFFICERS RESCUE DROWNING
MAN**

On August 19th, 2011, at approximately 8:45 A.M., the Fort Lauderdale Police Department received a call that a man was struggling to stay afloat in the New River waterway. Officers responded to the area and observed a white male in the water near the South Andrews Avenue Bridge. Officers on scene were advised by witnesses that the man leapt from the South Andrews Avenue Bridge, expressing suicidal thoughts.

Officers on scene summoned the Fort Lauderdale Police Marine Patrol, who immediately responded to the area. Marine Patrol Officers Keith Rohloff and Richard Rhodes were able to locate the male, who was submerged beneath the water's surface.

With wanton disregard for his personal safety, Officer Rhodes leapt into the turbulent waters and swam towards the drowning man. Officer Rohloff maintained control of the Police vessel, preventing other vessels from being piloted into the area. Officer Rhodes was able to raise the semi-conscious male to the surface and swam, with the man in tow, to the riverbank.

The male was transported to Broward General Medical Center for minor medical treatment and psychological evaluation. Officer Rhodes was also transported to Broward General Medical Center, as a precautionary measure, but has since been released.

Anyone with further information regarding the incident is encouraged to contact the Fort Lauderdale Police Department at 954-828-5700.

###